

# Armadillos



The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) provides advice on urban wildlife issues, but does not provide nuisance armadillo control.

- Armadillos can cause significant damage to yards and gardens while digging for food.
- Armadillo burrowing can compromise the integrity of a house's foundation.
- For more information on hunting and trapping armadillos: [Hunting and Trapping Regulations](#)

## Biological Information

**Distribution :** Southern Missouri and Oklahoma, throughout Texas and the southeast U.S., Central, and South America

**Habitat:** any woodland, field, or brushy area that is warm enough to support the insects that make-up their diet

**Appearance:** approximately the same size as a opossum, but heavier (6-16 pounds); four toes on the forefeet and five on the back; most of the body is encased in a boney carapace. The carapace is pliable in young armadillos and hardens over time.

**Diet:** primarily soil dwelling insects and their larva, and occasionally plant matter or reptiles and amphibians.

**Reproduction:** Breeding occurs in July or August, but implantation is delayed until

November. A gestation period of 120 days is then always followed by a litter of identical quadruplets.

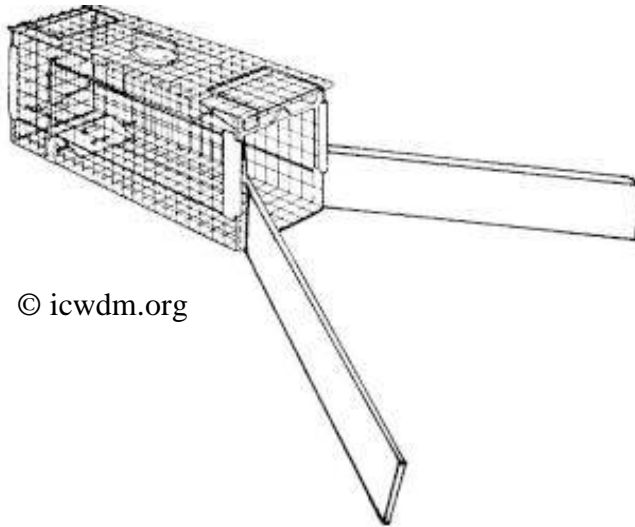
**Habits:** makes snorting sounds while rummaging through dirt and leaves; very good at rapidly burrowing; keen sense of smell and poor eyesight; stands on hind legs to sniff the air for potential dangers; leaps straight up when startled and runs away quickly; mostly nocturnal.

**Controls:** Domestic dogs, bobcats and coyotes will often prey upon armadillos. The tendency to jump when alarmed leads to many armadillo fatalities in traffic.

**Values:** burrows often serve as shelter for other wildlife species; low disease potential; possible carrier of Hansen's disease

## Live Trapping Armadillos

- There are no baits that are highly effective for attracting armadillos, but their usual diet consists of worms and grubs.
- Place traps in normal lanes of travel.
- Construct barriers to funnel the armadillo into the trap.
- Check the trap frequently to avoid causing excessive stress to the animal.
- Place grubs or earthworms in a nylon stocking as bait. This contains the bait without obscuring the scent.



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